

Notes\*\*\*Van Rossem\*\*\*California\*\*\*1922

Santa Cruz Island

August 18, 1922-With Dr. Loye Miller and Alden Miller. In spite of a very smooth sea, we noted very few sea birds coming across. In mid-channel were a few scattered Sooty Shearwaters, and about 5 miles from the island, about a dozen single petrels (*Oceanodroma sp. ?*)

August 19, 1922-Long trip through all likely places in the pine timber. We did not hear or see any Crossbills, or Nuthatches, although we worked the ground slowly and carefully. Neither were any Nutcrackers met with.

In the little pond just back of the beach, the tules and reeds have grown to a height of nearly 12 feet, and form a dense cover on two sides. It would seem an ideal place for song sparrows if such occur on the island in summer. However, I watched the place for about two hours in the afternoon, and never a small bird of any sort was seen. There was a family of Coots—a pair of old birds and several grown young, which occasionally showed themselves. Shrikes, rather common, but as usual, quite wild. Both old and young of the year are just now moulting, and so rather ragged. Santa Cruz Jays are just finishing the moult. They are as abundant as ever. In the cactus grown areas on hillsides, Rufous-crowned Sparrows are quite common. They seemed to be still in family parties, though the young are full grown. They decoy readily, and I had at one time six birds around me. Of eight, which were shot, I managed to retrieve only four—the rest were lost in dense cactus clumps. Barn Swallows are abundant everywhere. We saw them in large numbers even on top of the island, where they were darting about through the pines. House Finches were also common everywhere, but we observed no Purple Finches. In the afternoon about 4:30, Dr. Miller shot a young male Bald Eagle of the year, as it was bathing in a shallow, fresh water lagoon. When first seen, it was drinking greedily, almost

burying the head in the process. Several Kingfishers were flying up and down the coast. There seem to be three or four, but they keep pretty well separated from each other, and we never more than once at a time. They also were quite partial to the fresh water of the lagoon.

Birds collected today (Prisoner's Harbor, Santa Cruz Island)

K512-Lanius l.anthonyi	♀	L. 225 van R. van R.	7194 Post Breed
K513-Do.	♂ Juv.	222-Do.	7195-Topotype
K514-Aimophila obscura	? Juv.	--- Do.	7196
K515-Do.	♂ Juv.	146-Do.	7197
K516-Do.	♀	149-Do.	7198 Post Breed
K517-Do.	♀	146-Do.	7199 Post Breed

August 20, 1922– In the grain fields which cover the top of the island to the east of the harbor, we found a flock of about 30 Horned Larks. There were also one or two single birds flying high overhead. From this flock, 13 were secured—one fully plumaged female of the year, and the rest old birds, which were about finished with the body moult, but had only partially grown tails. Several Meadowlarks were heard, but they were very shy, and we could not collect any. Other birds noted in this region were a pair of Sparrow Hawks, a family of Shrikes about a line of fence and several single Mockingbirds. One of these last, which I saw at very close range, was still in spotted juvenile plumage. Ravens, common everywhere—still in family parties. Pair of Redtail Hawks circling about a eucalyptus grove. Took a male Blue Heron of the year in the lagoon. There was another bird present, but it proved too shy. There are hundreds of small bullfrogs and Hyla along the edges of this lagoon, and these should attract a good many Herons.

## Birds collected today (Prisoner's Harbor, Santa Cruz Island)

K518-Otocoris a. insularis	♀	L. --- van R. van R.	7200 Post Breed
K519-Do.	♂	174-Do.	7201-Post Breed
K520- Do.	♀	--- Do.	7202-Post Breed
K521-Do.	♂	---Do.	7203-Post Breed
K522-Do.	♂	---Do.	7204-Post Breed
K523-Do.	♀ Imm.	---Do.	7205-Post Breed
K524-Do.	♀	---Do.	7206-Post Breed
K525-Do.	♀	---Do.	7207-Post Breed
K526-Do.	♀	---Do.	7208-Post Breed
K527-Do.	♀	---Do.	7209-Post Breed
K528-Aphelocoma insularis	♀	325-Do.	7210-Post Breed
K529-Do.	♀ Imm.	330-Do.	7211-Post Breed
K530-Lanius l. anthonyi	♂	223-Do.	7212-Post Breed
K531-Do.	♂ Juv.	230-Do.	7213-Post Breed
K532-Ardea h. hyperonnoa	♂ Juv.	1200-Do.	7214-Post Breed

August 21, 1922- At daybreak, took an adult male Blue Heron in the lagoon. No others were seen, but the many tracks along shore showed that several birds at least had been there during the night. To Santa Barbara in P.M.

## Bird collected today: (Prisoner's Harbor, Santa Cruz Island)

K533-Ardea h. hyperonnoa	♂	1100 van R. van R.	7215-Post Breed
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Santa Cruz

8/19/22

lost in dense cactus clumps. Barn Swallows are abundant everywhere. We saw them in large numbers even on top of the island, where they were darting about through the pines. House Finches were also common everywhere but we observed no Purple Finches. In the afternoon about 4:30 Dr. Miller shot a young male Bald Eagle of the year as it was bathing in a shallow, fresh water lagoon. When first seen it was drinking greedily, - almost burying the head in the process. Several Kingfishers were flying up and down the coast. There seem to be three or four but they keep pretty well ~~separated~~ separated from each other and we never saw more than one at a time. They also were quite partial to the fresh water of the lagoon.

August 20-1922. In the grain fields which cover the top of the island to the east of the harbor we found a flock of about 30 horned larks. There were also one or two single birds flying high overhead. From this flock 13 were secured, - one fully plumaged ♀ of the year and the rest old birds which were about finished with the body moult but ~~still~~ had only partially grown tails. Several meadowlarks were heard but they were very shy and we could not collect any. Other birds noted in this region were a pair of Sparrow Hawks, a family of shrikes about a line of fence and several single mockingbirds. One of these last which I saw at very close range

Santa Cruz Island, Calif.

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Vern Rosser's field Notes: on file at UCLA.

SEA COAST, VIC Oxnard, Ventura  
County, Calif.

August 22-1922. With Dr. and Alden Miller  
and Ralph Hoffmann. The lost named  
took us to a combined dairy and hog  
ranch ~~near~~ just back of the beach  
near Oxnard, at which place he has  
found cowbirds to be quite common  
during the spring and early summer  
months. There were a good many  
there today, mixed up with redwings  
and Brewer-Blackbirds which also  
feed in numbers about the pens. A  
total of about 50 cowbirds was seen  
but about 4 out of 5 were juveniles.

These were easy enough to secure  
but the occasional old males had  
a habit of keeping in line with some  
pig or calf. After much maneuvering  
two of adult males were finally taken  
as well as a representation of young.  
No old females were seen & therefore  
watched carefully for them.

Among the school clung just behind  
the beach were a good many  
horned larks in small groups of 3 or 4.  
Some single birds were also noted  
but no large flocks. ~~There~~ There were  
occasional horned larks walking about  
the very filthy hog pens and looking  
very much out of place there.

A few Belding Sparrows were seen in  
the grass back of the dunes and about  
the shores of a lagoon.

To the beach near Huencama in  
the afternoon.

Santa Cruz Island

8/23/22

Was still in spotted ~~juvenile~~ juvenile  
plumage. Ravens common everywhere  
- still in family parties. Pair of Redtail

Hawks circling about a cecropius zone.  
Took a male black heron of the year in  
the lagoon. There was another bird  
present but it proved too shy. There are  
hundreds of small bullfrogs and Hyla  
along the edges of this lagoon and there  
should attract a good many herons.

August 21-1922. At daylight ~~there~~ <sup>took</sup>  
~~an~~ an adult male black heron in the  
lagoon. No others were seen but there  
were tracks along shore showed that  
several birds at least had been there  
during the night.

To Santa Barbara in P.M.

Aug 22-1922-

911 + 2700 ft.

Sept 15-1922. With Karl Coolidge. Drove ~~across~~ across the Mojave Desert a few miles from the base of the Sierra Madre and camped about 25 miles west of Victorville and in an area thickly grown with Yucca brevifolia. Here I made a careful hunt for Scott Orioles but found no trace. The annual old nest were noticed, showing that the species occurs in the vicinity in spring. Neither were ~~any~~ orioles found about Palmdale where they are common earlier in the year. These birds must make a very early departure for last year I failed to find any the last of August. A few Gambel Sparrows were seen in the brush and an occasional Sage Sparrow but no Black-throated Sparrows were seen.

Sept 16-1922. Camped ~~at~~ on the Mojave River about a mile below Victorville. Took a hairy woodpecker in a cottonwood grove and saw a couple of what were probably D. cactophilus. Song Sparrows were quite common in suitable places. I looked over a good many which seemed to be the black cooperi. Certainly ~~there were~~ none of these were pale enough to be skiltoni. Bluebirds (occidentalis) were common as last year.

Sept 17-1922. ~~On~~ On each side of the railroad are ditches or low places caused by removal of dirt to

build the embankment. ~~Explains~~ In such low places there is often water which supports a growth of ~~tules~~ tules and reeds as well as deep grass and other vegetation. Here I found a few scattered ~~for~~ redwings. They occurred usually in groups of from three to a dozen and probably a total of a hundred individuals were seen. A few were mixed in with a flock of about 50 Brewer's Blackbirds which spent most of their time paddling ~~about~~ in the mud of an adjacent irrigated alfalfa field. Most of the redwings seemed to be feeding on wild sunflower seeds. About half were taken from these sunflowers and half from the ~~same~~ telegraph wires along the railroad.

Cinnamon Teal fairly common in flocks in back water sloughs along the river as were Pintail Ducks. We saw automobile parties shooting at ducks all day. Several wounded birds were seen to come down in a meadow near camp but the hunters made no effort to retrieve them. We could not find any when hunting for them an hour or so later and ~~they~~ the birds had probably crawled off under the grass.

Had two good views of an adult White-tailed Kite as it flew up and down the river. It will continue to fly up and down till it passes our some duck hunter today or tomorrow.

Sept 18- To Los Angeles